Vol. VII. Numb. 73

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Deſigns of betraying Antwerp, Aeth, *and* Dendermond, *to the* French. *The Danger of employing ill Men in Places of Power and Truſt. The not ſtopping of the* French *King's Money from the* Weſt Indies, *enables him to pay his own Troops, and corrupt ours. The Reaſonableneſs of a Bill againſt buying and ſelling of Places, and of purging Church and State from Men of arbitrary Principles. The Emperor's War againſt the Pope, and our Concurrence in it, juſtify'd.*

From Saturday, October 23. to Wednesday, October 27. 1708.

Obſ. WHAT News from *Flanders* now, *Roger*?

Country-m. I think there's nothing but Treachery there, and all the World over, Maſter?

Obſ. Thou ar't continually grumbling, *Roger*. What's the Matter now?

Country-m. Matter, Maſter! The laſt foreign Mails bring us an Account, that the *French* had form'd a Correſpondence to betray *Antwerp* and *Aeth*, as they had done *Ghent* and *Bruges*; and that they had alſo form'd a Deſign upon *Dendermond*.

Obſ. Well, *Roger*, and what was the Iſſue?

Country-m. They had well nigh ſucceeded upon *Aeth*, Maſter. The Miſcarriage was only owing to the coming up of the Body of their Troops too late, for they had enter'd the Outworks, and were going to fix their Ladders of Ropes, to ſcale the Walls, before they were perceiv'd; but then the Garriſon taking the Alarm, they were forc'd to make off. And all this was owing to the Treachery of one *Le Grand*, lately employ'd as an Officer in that Garriſon.

Obſ. That's the Effect of employing People in Places of Power and Truſt, *Roger*, without due Enquiry into their Loyalty, and preferring Men for Money or Intereſt, and not for Merit. Beſides, *Roger*, there's a Maxim which has obtain'd much in the World of late, That 'tis the beſt Way to employ former Enemies, in order to make them ſure to the Intereſt of Princes, for they are always certain of their Friends. We have ſmarted by that Experiment in *England* ſeveral Times, and I am afraid ſome of our Neighbours have taken the like falſe Steps. 'Tis well, however, thoſe treacherous Deſigns have miſcarry'd; but 'tis another Proof, *Roger*, that we ſhould not have ſuffer'd the *French* to have fix'd themſelves in *Ghent* and *Bruges*, for we might be ſure they who are Maſters in the Art of Bribery, would do all they could to buy ſuch Towns as they found to be purchaſable; and had they ſucceeded, in which nothing but Providence ſeems to have hinder'd them, we ſhould have pay'd dear enough for the taking of *Liſle*.

Country-m. I am of that Opinion too, Maſter, and can't but think, as 'tis, that the Purchaſe is not very cheap.

Obſ. I have ſaid it again and again, *Roger*, that the *French* King has a mighty Advantage of the Allies, in getting Home Money continually from the *Weſt Indies*; for that enables him both to pay his own Troops, and to corrupt ours; and 'tis one of the moſt fretting Conſiderations in the World, that King *Charles*'s Towns ſhould be bought from him with his own Money. 'Tis juſt like *Æſop*'s Tree, that groan'd to find it ſelf ſplit with a Wedge of its own Timber. And that which makes it ſtill the more vexatious, is, that we have Naval Force enough not only to have prevented it, but to have brought it thence for King *Charles*'s Uſe, which would have ſav'd us the great Sums that we have been forc'd, from Time to Time, to ſupply him with.

Country-m. That Neglect has been long and frequently complain'd of, Maſter, but I could never yet hear any good Reaſon for it; and I am afraid the Corruption and Bribery, mention'd in the foreign Prints, is not confin'd to Garriſons only, but extends farther, and, for any thing we know, may have alſo got into Armies and Fleets, which I take to be very dangerous; for Soldiers of Fortune (and I think all thoſe may be call'd ſo, who ſerve more for Pay, than for Affection to their Country) can have nothing elſe in View, but to make their Fortune; and he that bids moſt, whether it be to fight, or to fly, to be faithful, or to betray, they muſt always reckon their beſt Chap. And ſo long as Poſts are to be ſold, I can't think the *French* King ſuch a Novice in the Art of Bribery, but he may furniſh his Tools with Money to buy: And by the Service ſuch Men may do him, he ſaves Money by the Bargain. Therefore, Maſter, I will ſpeak to my Repreſentatives next Seſſion, to bring in a Bill againſt buying and ſelling of Poſts and Places, and to take Care that Men may be preferr'd according to Merit; for in my Opinion, Maſter, that *Scotch* Serjeant, who firſt mounted the Ravelin at *Liſle*, and that *Engliſh* Grenadier, who took the Count *de Croiſſy Colbert* at *Leſſinghen*, and refus'd Money and a Commiſſion in the *French* Army, to let him go, deſerve Preferment better than thoſe who have no other Merit but their Money, or the Recommendations of this or that fair Lady, or Great Man.

Obſ. I think you will do very well, *Roger*; there never ſeem'd to be more Need of it. We have good Laws already for that End, if they were duly put in Execution; which, if they be not, it was an old and true Obſervation, that they prove Goads in the Side of the Government, inſtead of Supports to it. Therefore, *Roger*, I ſhould think a Revival of thoſe old Laws, with ſuch Additions as are neceſſary, would be very convenient; and if Poſts and Places muſt be ſold, let the Government be the Merchant, and have the Profits of them for carrying on the War, which I am of Opinion would be a very good Fund; for in a Paper entitl'd *Reaſons againſt buying and ſelling of Offices*, printed in 1691, I find the Offices, thro' the Kingdom, were valu'd at a Million *per Annum*, which became ſo often void, that once in ſeven Years they all fall to the Crown. I can't tell whether all the Poſts in the Army and Fleet were included in this Eſtimate, but however that be, it ſeems to deſerve the Conſideration of our Legiſlators.

Country-m. Aye, Maſter, and if to this there be a Clauſe added, That none ſhall be preferr'd, but thoſe whoſe Affection to the Goverment as founded upon the Revolution, is ſufficiently known, and they be otherwiſe qualify'd for the Poſts; it would prevent ſuch Complaints as I have heard too frequently, that Men of no Ability, and ill Principles, are employ'd; for I doubt not you have heard, as well as I, that there was a Time when Squadrons were ſent to the *Weſt Indies*, and that either the Commadores, or many of the Captains, were ſuſpected to be *Jacobites*. I am ſure, Maſter, her Majeſty and the Country can never be well ſerv'd by Men of thoſe Principles.

Obſ. Since your Hand is in, *Roger*, pray put your

Repre-

Repreſentatives in Mind of conſidering, whether a Clauſe may not be neceſſary to purge our Univerſities and our Churches of Men of arbitrary Principles; for if thoſe who have the Charge of breeding our Youth, that are to be Officers of Church and State, and ſuch as have the Conduct of Peoples Conſciences, be tainted with ſuch Notions, 'tis in vain to expect the Streams ſhould be pure, while the Fountains are corrupt; or that our Liberties can be ſecure, when their Foundations are every Day ſapp'd. I find in Mr. *Hambden*'s Conſiderations, formerly mention'd, that Great and Worthy Patriot complain'd, *That the King's Title, and the Legality of it, were as publickly diſputed, and with as little Fear of Puniſhment, as any Point of natural Philoſophy, in the Schools at* Oxford, *or any moot Caſe of Law by the Students in the* Temple; *that Books were publiſh'd, denying, that any Thing that was done by the Nation in depoſing King* James, *and crowning King* William, *was void; and that no ſubſequent Conſent or Submiſſion of the Nation, could legitimate an Authority, ſet up at firſt upon ſo unjuſt a Bottom; and yet none of thoſe Men were made Examples.* I wiſh, *Roger*, there were nothing of the like Nature to be complain'd of now.

Country-m. We muſt adjourn this Subject to another Time, Maſter. You are now attack'd for what you ſaid about humbling the Pope, the Emperor is libell'd for defending himſelf againſt him, as kindling a new War in *Italy*, without the Conſent of his Confederates; and Hints are given, as if it would occaſion the with-drawing his Forces, that, by expreſs Stipulation, ought to be employ'd for the common Cauſe.

Obſ. I heartily wiſh, *Roger*, there were more Regard in this Country to the Law of Nations, than I am afraid there is. I remember a Story of one of the Princes of *Orange*, that during his War with the Houſe of *Auſtria*, a petulent Libeller wrote, in very diſreſpectful Terms, of that Family; for which he expected a Reward; but inſtead of that, the Prince order'd him to be ſoundly drubb'd, and told, that it did not become a private Scribbler to treat the chief Prince in *Chriſtendom* after ſuch a Manner. Certainly, *Roger*, there's much more to be ſaid againſt treating the Greateſt Prince of the Alliance with Diſreſpect. Who made ſuch Perſons acquainted with the Secrets of the Confederacy? Have we not done all we could to ſupport the Pretenſions of that Family in *Italy*? Did we not aſſiſt to recover their Dominions there, out of the Hands of the *French*? And in order to ſecure their Poſſeſſion, have we not this very Campaign taken the important Harbour of *Port Mahone*, and had not the Emperor's Clemency prevented it, 'tis not improbable, that we might have given the Pope ſome Bombs for his Bulls, as well as we have put ſuch a Curb in his Jaws. In what Senſe can this be call'd a new War then, which is only deſign'd to bring the old one to a happy Concluſion? Has not the Pope, ever ſince he came to the *Tiara*, inſulted the Houſe of *Auſtria*? Has he not always countenanc'd the Duke of *Anjou*'s Uſurpations againſt King *Charles* the III. With what Reaſon then can any Man ſay, that to make War upon the Pope, is not to carry on the common Cauſe? Don't we juſtly expect Protection from our own Sovereigns, according to their Oath? And is not the Emperor as much oblig'd by his, as he has generouſly own'd it, to protect the Fundatories of the Empire in *Italy*? Is it not for the common Cauſe to prevent the *French* King's repoſſeſſing himſelf of the *Auſtrian* Dominions there, as he is now endeavouring by a League? And ought we not to concur with the Emperor, in chaſtizing the Pope, who has excommunicated his Generals, and thoſe of his Allies, and ſounds a Trumpet of Rebellion againſt him among his own Subjects? Has he not done the like againſt her Majeſty? Had he no Hand in ſending the Pretender to dethrone her? Was it not by the Intrigues of the Court of *Rome*, that the late King *James* deſign'd the Overthrow of our Religion and Liberties? And have we no Pretenſions then to demand Reparation from the Tripple Crown, for endeavouring to ſubject our own three, to St. *Peter*'s pretended Keys, by St. *Paul*'s Sword, as a former Pope expreſs'd himſelf in another Caſe.

Country-m. Aye, but, Maſter, that Author threatens us with the Conſequences; and tells us, the reſt of the Princes and States of *Italy*, will not ſuffer the Pope to be pull'd down as a temporal Prince.

Obſ. Who told him, *Roger*, that the Emperor deſign'd either to do that, or to ſwallow up the reſt of the Princes and States there? Have not thoſe Princes as much Reaſon to apprehend the Deſigns of a *Frenchify'd* Pope? Is it impoſſible, that the *French* King may allow him to enlarge the Patrimony of St. *Peter*, at the Expence of thoſe Princes, as well as at that of the Emperor? And are they not more oblig'd, in Juſtice and Duty, to prevent his pulling down his Imperial Majeſty as a Temporal Prince, over his own Vaſſals in *Italy*, of which ſome of themſelves make a Part? Or are they in leſs Danger from being ſwallow'd up by the Houſe of *Bourbon*, than by the Houſe of *Auſtria*, who have no naval Force? Or does he think, that we and the *Dutch*, who are concern'd in Intereſt, to keep the Ballance in *Europe*, will make uſeof our Fleet to over-turn it? Or that when we are Maſters of the *Mediterranean*, and have now a better Footing there, than ever, that we are to be hector'd out of what we owe to the Emperor and our Selves, by the Princes and States of *Italy*? In my Opinion, *Roger*, ſuch Suggeſtoins as theſe, are diſhonourable to us, as well as to our Greateſt Allie, and the firſt Prince in *Chriſtendom*. But more of this another Time.

Advertiſements.

¶ On Saturday next, being the 30th of October, will be expos'd to Sale, the Furniture of a Dining-Room and Bed-Chamber, with other Things, all new faſhion'd, and not fifteen Months us'd, at Mrs. Jones's, over againſt the George Ale-houſe in Earl's-Court, Drury-Lane.

¶ At the White Hart at Tottenham, every Sunday, is very good Entertainment for Gentlemen and Ladies; and convenient Stabling for Horſes. Likewiſe Horſes to be let to any Part of England, by Robert Smith.

¶ Dr. Anderſon's, or the famous Scots Pills, are, by her Majeſty's Authority, faithfully prepar'd only by Mrs. Engliſh from Edinburgh, now living at the Unicorn, over againſt the Watch-houſe, near the May-pole in the Strand, London. And to prevent Counterfeits from Scotland, as well as in and about Town, you are deſir'd to take Notice, that the true Pills have their Boxes ſeal'd on the Top in black Wax, with a Lyon rampant, and three Mullets argent, Dr. Anderſon's Head betwixt I.I with his Name round it, and Iſabella Engliſh underneath the Shield, in a Scroll. They are of excellent Uſe, to be taken with Epſom, Tunbridge, or other Medicinal Waters. Beware of Counterfeits, eſpecially one Muſſen, who ſells a notorious Counterfeit, inſtead of the true Pill, within three Doors of me. I Engliſh.

The Golden Unction.

BEing a moſt ſovereign and infallible Remedy for the Gout, which gives immediate Eaſe to the moſt inſufferable and tormenting Pains, meliorating and affording inſtant Relief to the Part afflicted. Thoſe who uſe it in the firſt Fit of this Diſtemper, will hardly ever know a ſecond. And where it has got a Head, by long Continuance, (if conſtantly apply'd) it will prevent its ever returning again with any manner of Violence. It likewiſe ſupplies and carries off any hard or malignant Swellings proceeding from groſs Humours, Sprains, or Wrenches, and is a moſt wonderful Cure for all manner of ſore Breaſts, tho' never ſo bad, and of long Continuance; and of all other Diſtempers that afflict the Joints. It has been known to make thoſe walk young and upright, that have been lame and decrepid for many Years. It is ſold at the Price of 1 s. 6 d. the Pot, with Directions how to uſe it. To be had only at the Bible in Fetter-lane, the lower end near Fleet-ſtreet.

THE moſt excellent Spirit of Ground-Ivy, diſtill'd to its perfection. It infallibly cools and ſweetens the Blood, and mightily helps to keep the Stomach in Order. It hath likewiſe a more than ordinary Effect upon the Lungs, by preventing and wearing off ſhort huſking Coughs, and preſerving the Lungs ſound and entire. It is to be drank in Wine, Ale, or the Waters, whereby Gentlemen may carry it in their Pockets, and drink it at their Pleaſure. To be ſold with printed Directions, at the Bible in Fetter-lane, Old-Man's Coffee-Houſe at Charing-Croſs, Mr. Gouge's in Weſtminſter-Hall, Mr. Walter at the Hand and Pen in High Holborn, Mr. Dennis at New-Street End in St. Martin's-lane, Mrs. Dobſon's againſt the Horn Tavern at Ratcliff-Croſs, Mrs. Shelly's at the old Perfumer without Biſhopſgate, and at Mr. Lock's at the Lamp in Great Eaſtcheap, at 1 s. a Bottle. Note, this is the firſt and right Sort, and all others Counterfeits. At the ſame Places are alſo ſold the Spirit of Broom, Sage, Elder, Survy-Graſs, and the fragrant Spirit of Wormwood.

LONDON, Printed for the Uſe of the Widow of the late Author, JOHN TUTCHIN.